



May 23, 2007

H.R. 1716 – Green Energy Education Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 1716 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX) on March 27, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology and was reported out of the Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 1716 is expected to be considered by the House on June ????, 2007.

**Note: Identical legislation was introduced in the 109th Congress but was never considered by the Committee.*

Summary

H.R. 1716 would allow the Secretary of Energy to contribute funds in the form of grants to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the purpose of increasing graduate and undergraduate degrees in the areas of engineering and architecture that specifically focus on the design and construction of high performance buildings. High performance buildings were defined in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 as “a building that integrates and optimizes all major high-performance building attributes, including energy efficiency, durability, life-cycle performance, and occupant productivity.”

Background

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 was signed into law on August 8, 2005 (P.L. 109-58). The legislation focused on ways to save and conserve energy. “High performance buildings” were recommended in the legislation as one way the bill addressed energy use. High performance buildings are more eco-friendly and incorporate long lasting materials and energy efficiency.

High performance buildings use less energy than conventional buildings by incorporating solar power and natural light. Studies have shown that buildings with natural light also improve employee productivity.

**Note: For more information on high performance buildings please visit the link below. (http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/highperformance/design_approach.html)*

Cost

H.R. 1716 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

Staff Contact

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